implemented in the country which enhance the capacity/skills of the officers. In view of rapid changes in management systems and technology all over the world it is important to expose officers to the best management practices. The benefits of learning from the experience of the fellow-participants from other countries in problem solving are some of the hallmarks of training abroad. Exposure to training abroad enables our civil servants to frame better policies/ plans and implement projects and thereby ensure better delivery of services to the public.

Lower pay scale to assistants

1939. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that graduate level Assistants' Grade Examination held at three levels by way of preliminary, Main followed by interview is very tough mode of recruitment;

(b) whether all the other Group 'B' non-Gazetted and Group 'C' category of employees drawing the pay scale of Rs. 6500-10500 or even higher are recruited through such high level of selection process; and

(c) if not, the reasons for giving lower pay scale of Rs. 5500-9000 to the Assistants Group 'B' non-Gazetted, working at the apex Government offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There is no separate examination for recruitment of Assistants only, SSC holds a Combined Graduate Level Examination for filling up the posts of Assistants, Inspectors of Central Excise/Income tax, Preventive Officer, Assistant Enforcement Officer and Examiner (OG) in Customs House, Sub Inspectors in CBI, Sub Inspectors of Police in CPOs, Sub Inspectors in Delhi Police and Divisional Accountants/ Auditors/Junior Accountants/UDCs in various Central Government Departments. The examination is a 3-tier system in which candidates are first short listed by way of a Preliminary (Objective type) Exam.

This is followed by Main (Conventional Type) Written Examination and thereafter interview/personality test etc. The three tier system was introduced to ensure better quality of candidates.

(b) As brought above, in addition to recruitment of Assistants, Staff Selection Commission conducts examinations for direct recruitment to non-technical Group 'C' posts and those Group 'B' posts in the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and their attached and subordinate offices which are in the pay scale the maximum of which is below Rs. 10,500/- through Combined Graduate Level Examination and other Examinations. Some organizations under the Government of India hold their own recruitment to Group 'B' and 'C' posts falling within their purview as per the notified recruitment rules of the posts.

(c) The pay scales of various posts are decided by expert bodies such as the Central Pay Commission keeping in view all related factors. The existing pay scale of Assistants' Grade was decided by the Fifth Central Pay Commission.

Setting up of a high level Processed Food Authority of India

1940. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether on one side Government are seriously thinking of down-sizing the bureaucracy while on the other Ministry of Food Processing Industry is thinking of creating a high level Processed Food Authority of India, comprising 12 full fledged members with necessary supporting staff; and

(b) if so, whether this step will not go against the desired objective of down-sizing Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) As on date no final decision in regard to creation of a Processed Food Authority of India has been taken.